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THIS NOTICE EXPIRES 1 NOVEMBER 1955



NOTICE

PERSONNEL  
20 October 1954

## POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY AGENCY EMPLOYEES

### 1. GENERAL

- a. This Notice is to remind Agency employees of the restrictions concerning participation in political activities imposed by the Hatch Act, as amended, and Agency Regulations.
- b. The Hatch Act prohibits employees from:
  - (1) Using official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or affecting its results.
  - (2) Taking an active part in political management or in a political campaign.
- c. The Civil Service Commission has compiled lists of the more common types of political activities prohibited and permitted under the Hatch Act. This material is summarized in paragraphs 2 and 3 below.

### 2. PERMITTED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

- a. The direct language of the Hatch Act specifically provides that all employees retain the right to vote as they choose.
- b. The right to express political opinions is reserved to all employees. Note: This reservation is subject to the prohibition that such persons may not take active part in political management or in political campaigns.
- c. It is lawful for any officer or employee to make a voluntary contribution to a regularly constituted political organization, provided such contribution is not made in a Federal building or to some other officer or employee who is prohibited by Federal law from accepting contributions.
- d. Service as an election officer is permitted provided no partisanship or partisan political management is shown.
- e. It is lawful for any officer or employee to display a political picture in his home if he so desires.
- f. While it is not unlawful for an officer or employee to wear a political badge or button or to display a political sticker on his private automobile (except where forbidden by local ordinance), it is regarded as contrary to the spirit of the law for a public servant to make a partisan display of any kind, while on duty conducting the public business.
- g. A Federal employee is permitted to sign petitions, including nominating petitions, as an individual without reference to his connection with the

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Government; however, he may not initiate them or canvass for the signatures of others, if the petitions are identified with political management or political campaigns.

3. PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

- a. The Hatch Act is designed to prohibit those subject to it from assuming political leadership or becoming prominently identified with any political movement, party, faction, or candidate for election to public office in a partisan political campaign.
- b. Federal employees are prohibited from:
  - (1) Serving on or for any political committee, party, or other similar organization, or serving as a delegate or alternate to a caucus or party convention.
  - (2) Soliciting or handling political contributions.
  - (3) Soliciting sale of or selling political party dinner tickets.
  - (4) Serving as officer of a political club, as member or officer of any of its committees, addressing such a club or being active in organizing it.
  - (5) Serving in connection with preparation for, organizing, or conducting a political meeting or rally, addressing such a meeting, or taking any other active part therein except as a spectator.
  - (6) Engaging in activity at the polls (at primary or regular elections), such as soliciting votes, assisting voters to mark ballots, or transporting or helping to get out the voters on registration or election days.
  - (7) Acting as recorder, checker, watcher, or challenger of any party or faction.
  - (8) Writing for publication or publishing any letter or article, signed or unsigned, in favor of or against any political party or candidate.
  - (9) Becoming a candidate for nomination or election to office, Federal, State, county, or municipal, which is to be filled in an election in which party candidates are involved, or soliciting others to become candidates for nomination or election to such offices.
  - (10) Distributing campaign literature or material.
  - (11) Engaging in political conferences, or canvassing a district or soliciting political support for a party, faction, or candidate.

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4. Agency personnel are reminded that the involvement of CIA employees in controversial political matters may not only reveal their identification with CIA but their participation may be construed as a reflection of an official policy or position of the Agency. CIA Regulation [redacted] requires that prior security clearance will be obtained with regard to publications, speeches, and other private activities which might reasonably be construed to affect the security of the Agency, directly or indirectly.

5. QUESTIONS

For guidance in a specific case, employees should consult the Employee Services Division, Office of Personnel, Extension [redacted]. The Office of Personnel will obtain the advice of the Office of the General Counsel on such questions whenever necessary.

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FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

L. K. WHITE  
Deputy Director  
(Administration)

DISTRIBUTION: ALL EMPLOYEES